



Breaking *the* Silence



Hello Everyone!

The CAC is so excited to bring to you our first ever electronic newsletter. This change will reduce costs while also helping our environment. Most importantly, going green will save money so we can better serve our children. Please take some time to become acquainted with the new look and share our newsletter with family and friends.

On August 17th, The CAC was honored to host Attorney General Gregg Abbott as CACTX launched the *One With Courage* campaign. *One With Courage* is the first public awareness campaign of its kind in the state of Texas, centered around the courage it takes to talk about child sexual abuse– the courage it takes child victims to come forward and talk about their abuse and the courage it takes adults to talk about the issue, learn the signs and report abuse when it is suspected. I encourage everyone to learn more by visiting the website, www.onewithcourage.org.

Recent statistics indicate that if one person is trained to recognize the signs of abuse they can potentially rescue ten children from being abused in the years following their training. Therefore, let's all sign up for one of The CAC's trainings and be *One With Courage*! It will take our entire community working together to prevent child sexual abuse. ([Click here to see photos from the One With Courage Press Conference at The CAC](#)).

Take Care

Elaine Stolte, Executive Director

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14th Annual H.O.I.S.T Tournament

This year marked the 14th Annual H.O.I.S.T. Tournament bringing together 420 participants on May 14th and 15th at Westside Sporting Grounds in Katy, Texas. Participants practiced all day Friday gearing up for the competition and with a slight rain delay, the tournament kicked off Saturday morning. Rain could not stand in the way of this dedicated group. Not only were they committed to having a great time out at the shooting grounds, but they were also devoted to raising funds for The Children's Assessment Center. H.O.I.S.T. presented a check to The CAC for \$60,000, which brings the H.O.I.S.T. contributions to \$645,000. We are so grateful for the continuous support of this wonderful organization and especially to the founding leaders behind the tournament, Lauren and Joe Byars. We also thank the H.O.I.S.T. Board of Directors and Host Committee for all of their hard work and commitment in improving the lives of sexually abused children in our community.





7th Annual *Cherish The Child Awards Reception*



The Children's Assessment Center Foundation's Cherish the Child Awards Reception was held on April 21, 2010 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. The 2010 Humanitarian Awards Recipients honored at this year's reception were: Baker Botts LLP, Christopher and Laurie DeClaire and Shell. Each of these recipients was recognized for their support and dedication to the children and families of Harris County and specifically those families served at The Children's Assessment Center. We are so thankful for the many people that help support the programs at The CAC!

[\(For additional photos click here\)](#)

2010 Summer Fun at The CAC

What did you do this summer? Thanks to the generosity of ConocoPhillips, children served by The CAC will have a really exciting answer to that question. For four Wednesdays in June, every child served by The CAC was invited to enjoy special presentations by the returning favorite, Mad Science, and two new friends. First, Scott Bumgardner, the storyteller, cowboy poet and Texas longhorn cattle breeder joined us to share his exciting, far-fetched tales of cowboys, gators, and other Texas critters. Next, Dinosaurs Rock amazed the kids with their fun and educational presentation using museum-quality dinosaur, fossil and mineral specimens. The kids dug for sharks' teeth and precious rocks and saw huge dinosaur fossils up-close. We wrapped up the fun with a special viewing of *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* on the big screen. The kids enjoyed popcorn and sweet treats while spending some well deserved leisure time with friends.



Volunteers, staff and kids alike will never forget the fun they had this summer at The CAC. Each child saw, tried and learned something new each week. Thank you to our sponsors, Conoco Phillips, our faithful volunteers and wonderful staff who encouraged our kids to have fun and learn!

95% of children are abused by a family member or someone they know and trust



'Paw and Order' Program Debuts at The Children's Assessment Center



The Children's Assessment Center's Forensic Services Division, in collaboration with The Harris County District Attorney's Office, is pleased to announce the incorporation of the "Paw and Order – Special Dog Unit" program at The CAC. This twice monthly pilot program is designed to comfort children who are victims of sexual assault and offers children the opportunity to interact with animals in a positive, nurturing environment prior to giving statements and providing information during an investigation of child abuse.

Paw and Order dogs will be wearing distinctive bandanas that identify them as service animals and will be visiting The CAC on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. This program is fully-funded by donations and volunteers, so there will be no cost to Harris County or The CAC Foundation.

Special Thanks to Our Donors

We have been so fortunate to receive wonderful donations from you, our dedicated supporters, this first half of the year! We absolutely could not do it without you. As we make our way into "going green", we will be recognizing and thanking our donors through our CAC E-Newsletters. We would like to spotlight and recognize our major donors for the first half of this year. Thank you to H.O.I.S.T. for your generous donation this spring from the annual tournament. You are such faithful supporters and your group knows how to have a great time for a great cause! Thank you to H-E-B for underwriting our 11th Annual Spirit of Spring Luncheon, Holthouse Foundation For Kids for underwriting the incredible fashion show, and FENDI for your generous support and partnership. We would also like to say a special thank you to Baylor Methodist Community Health Fund, ConocoPhillips, The Johnson & Johnson / Society for the Arts in Healthcare Partnership to Promote the Arts in Healing, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc. and The Charles and Melissa Davis Foundation for your generosity.

There have been some creative donations and fun partnerships that have developed over the last several months that we wanted to share with all of you. Jeanne Dini with her company, Donne Di Domani, donated a portion of the proceeds of her famous marinara sauce sales from the Nutcracker Market to The CAC. We love that you thought of us! Transwestern has been continually supporting The CAC as they allow vendors in their real estate properties to sell products to consumers with a portion of sales given to The CAC. And lastly, we wanted to share a story of a deputy with Harris County, Stephen Fontenot, and how his family shared a wonderful tradition with The CAC this year. Each holiday season, instead of purchasing gifts for each other, the family draws to see who selects the charity they will donate to that year. In lieu of purchasing gifts, the family takes the money they would normally spend and instead donates to a charity. Stephen chose The CAC and we so appreciated you choosing us. What a great tradition your family has! [To see the entire list of donors from January through June 2010, please click here.](#)

11th Annual Spirit of Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show

On April 14, 2010, the Regency Ballroom at the Omni Hotel was alive with excitement from The Children's Assessment Center's 11th Annual Spirit of Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show. With a room full of energy, professional models strutted down the runway showing off an incredible collection of FENDI fashions. Guests were in for a treat as FENDI, the Italian luxury goods house based out of Rome, Italy, debuted the Summer Collection domestically at the Spirit of Spring Luncheon in front of nearly 500 lively supporters of The Children's Assessment Center. Extraordinary event chairs Lisa Holthouse and Amy M. Lee contributed countless hours to produce this premier spring fashion event. This year's event was generously underwritten by H-E-B, and the Fashion Show was generously underwritten by Holthouse Foundation For Kids. Amazing luncheon committee chairs contributing to the success of this event included Jason Bickel, Nancy Golden, Lindsey Love and Bruce Padilla. Board members in


attendance included Paulette Arana, Ericka Bagwell, Susan Boggio, Christopher De-Claire, Kimberly DeLape, Catherine Flowers, Troy Manchac, Roy Marsh, Marta Mattox, Kim Moody, Gail Prather, Alicia Smith, Phyllis Williams and Friends Guild Board President, Anne Carl.

Loyal and generous sponsors included Fashion Show Producer, Lenny Matuszewski, The Phoenix Design Group, *Houston* Magazine, Ben Shamooelian of Houston Flowery and Alicia Smith with Innovative Legal Solutions. Also present were CAC Executive Director, Elaine Stolte and President of the Foundation Board of Directors, Debbie C. Martinez. Eric Andell, serving as Master of Ceremonies, entertained the crowd with his charm and wit.

All funds raised at Spirit of Spring will support direct service programs such as forensic interviewing, medical and therapy services which are critical to the hope and healing of young victims of sexual abuse.

[\(For additional photos click here\)](#)




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For comments and suggestions, or to subscribe/unsubscribe to Breaking The Silence send an e-mail to Tammy Hetmaniak @ tammy.hetmaniak@cac.hctx.net

The median age for reported abuse is 9 years old